



GALLERY NEWS

WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON
GALLERY OF ART
MARY ATKINS MUSEUM
OF FINE ARTS

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Kansas City, Missouri

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Free Days—Saturday, Sunday, Pub-
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All Mondays
New Years, July 4th
Thanksgiving and Christmas



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January

1942

TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS: The interesting and instructive exhibition of Paintings and Oriental Objects from the permanent collection with their publications will continue through the first three weeks of January.

Further material has been added since the opening of the show last month. Our lovely Lorenzo Monaco Madonna of Humility was at one time in the famous Toscanelli Collection of Florence and photostats of the catalogue of 1883 have been obtained from the Boston Museum of Fine Arts Library. Our visitors have been especially interested in this exhibition and have called our attention to other reproductions of objects, notably a colour plate of the Tapestry Weave Rug which appeared in an old issue of International Studio. There is every indication that this original exhibition has been instrumental in stressing the importance of the permanent collection.

CONTEMPORARY FRENCH PAINTINGS: For the period of January 5th to 24th, the North loan gallery will be installed with a selected group of the Contemporary French Paintings which came originally to America for the 1939 San Francisco Fair and which were shown here last April. These paintings have been entrusted to the Gallery by the French Government for the period of the war. Many of the leading artists of France are included in the group and for this exhibition such men as Bonnard, Ceria, Denis, Desnoyers, Dufresnes, de Segonzac, Friez, Gromaire, Lhote, Rouault, Utrillo, Valadon and Vuillard will be represented. It is interesting to note that while many French painters have come to the United States in recent months, for the most part the men in this exhibition are still at work in their native country.

PAINTINGS BY PICASSO: Certainly the most controversial living artist is the Spaniard, Pablo Picasso. Now in his sixty-second year, he is still one of our most enigmatic painters. Two years ago, a large retrospective exhibition of his work, called "Forty Years of Picasso's Art" was arranged by the Museum of Modern Art and shown in a few centers of the country. A carefully selected group of

about forty works has been chosen from this exhibition and will be installed in the loan galleries from January 25th to February 16th.

Picasso arrived in Paris at the end of the 19th century and came quickly under the influence of Steinlen and Toulouse-Lautrec. Then followed the Blue and Rose periods of 1904-6 with its harlequins, actors and acrobats and which the majority of gallery visitors find his most attractive phase. This was succeeded by the strong influence of Negro Sculpture which resulted in the famous "Demoiselles d'Avignon" of 1907. The following years, with the collaboration of Braque, he was engrossed in the problems of cubism which he has never completely abandoned. An interest in the Russian Ballet about 1915 developed into the classic period in which heroic nudes dominate his canvases. From 1925 on, Picasso's work represents an extraordinary variety of styles and approaches. Often the human anatomy is distorted and dislocated with a profligate extravagance. At times the brilliant colour and the heavy outlines suggest Gothic stained glass. Again, and with surrealist imagination, the profile and full face are often combined. These excursions into hitherto unexplored domains are frequently punctuated by his exquisite drawings in which his sensitive line shows his complete command. Even today, Picasso is as baffling as ever.

In connection with the exhibition, the Museum of Modern Art has arranged a visual analysis of his famous cubist painting, the "Seated Man" of 1911 and this also will be shown. Visitors who are at all familiar with the work of Picasso will appreciate that this will be one of the most stimulating and interesting exhibitions of the season.

EARLY CHRISTIAN SCULPTURE: The anniversary acquisition, the Early Christian sculpture of "The Winning of the Golden Fleece", will remain on exhibition in the Masterpiece Room through the month of January. The most important and complete example of this rare art, it is receiving most favorable comment, especially from scholars and critics throughout the country.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES:

January 7th: Early Chinese Buddhist Sculpture and the Transition Style. The first lecture after the holidays will continue the subject of Chinese Buddhist sculpture through the sixth century. The first half of the period saw the perfection of a vigorous kind of archaic sculpture that was strongly Chinese in its emphasis on line quality rather than three dimensional mass. This archaic style is well represented by a number of monumental steles, free-standing figures in stone and small bronze images. Toward the middle of the sixth century, fresh and direct influences reached China from India and the early manner of making the images is superseded by a more full-bodied sculpture based on Indian models. The Gallery collection is especially rich in splendid examples of both these styles.

January 14th: The Classic Style of Buddhist Sculpture and Painting - the T'ang Dynasty. It was in the T'ang Dynasty, the Golden Age, (618-907 A.D.) when the capital of China was the capital of the civilized world, that the Buddhist church and Chinese Buddhist art reached their full maturity. The Buddhist church was no longer the relatively simple doctrine of faith it had been in the early days, but was overlaid with all the subtle doctrines of Indian metaphysics. Buddhist art in both painting and sculpture reflected the sophistication of the age, and partook at once of its forthright realism, its wealth and its intellectual brilliance. The representations of the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas attained their final evolution in classic types that have remained the standard ever since.

January 21st: Later Buddhist Art and the Baroque Manner. After the great epoch of creative activity that brought Buddhist art to so high a level in T'ang times, a decline of energy is apparent in the Buddhist sculpture and painting of the following Sung period, when Chinese activities were directed in other fields. And so, abandoning for this one lecture the chronological order of the series, this lecture will be devoted to a strong renaissance or revival of Buddhist church art that came in north China during the twelfth to fourteenth centuries. The style was based upon the classic traditions of T'ang times, but with a new kind of elaboration and grandeur, a stepping up of the emotional appeal of the sculptured figures. The result was a rich baroque art. The great temple fresco, the celebrated wood-sculpture of Kuan Yin and numerous other

examples in the Gallery collection make it possible to study this baroque style here in Kansas City as well as anywhere outside of China.

January 28: The Luxury of T'ang China. In this lecture, the subject returns to China of the seventh and eighth centuries, and the rich development of arts outside the Buddhist church. This was the period of the immortal Chinese poets, Li Po and Tu Fu. It was the Golden Age of literature and of living. The lacquer ware, the textiles, metal work and ceramics all reflect an elegant and luxurious way of life. The art of the potter emerged during the T'ang dynasty as the great craft that has made China famous throughout the world. The elaborate tomb figures of horses and camels, dancing girls and strange foreigners are the products of this age best known in the Occident today.

GALLERY CHANGES

Ceramics Room: The third group of the chronological series of exhibitions of the Burnap Collection of English Pottery will be installed in the Ceramics Room during the first week of January.

Many of the objects in this installation are of Staffordshire provenance. Of particular interest are the Ralph Wood Figures. This illustrious member of the Wood family was active in Burslem from 1750 to 1772. His figures and rustic groups are marked by a straightforward homely quality which is essentially English and show little outside influence. In such examples as "The Vicar and Moses", we see the rather satirical Quaker tendency for parson-baiting of the particular church. The shepherds, hunters, bag-pipe players and especially the animals have a definite rugged charm. Enoch Wood, a nephew of Ralph, set up his own business in 1784 and made figures and coloured jugs of more sophisticated character. Such groups as "Draymen" reflect the porcelain of the period and the busts of Shakespeare, Wesley and Minerva are especially fine.

Later Staffordshire wares include the interesting and ambitious "Gretna Green Group" and the amusing "Doctor Syntax And Friend". A fine plaque with profile busts of George III and his Queen is dated 1795 and a figure of a stallion is one of the most effective of the group.

The jugs, tureens and platters in dark blue with scenic views are particularly beautiful. The Pratt wares of white stoneware with figures, animals and allegories in relief and decorated with bright colours are individual and appealing in their rustic humour.

Prototypes of the Mask Jugs may be seen in Greek Vases but without the amusing humour. Perhaps the most popular group is the Toby Jugs which derive from the character of Uncle Toby in Sterne's "Tristram Shandy". These are jovial, robust caricatures and are purely English. Such characters as Paul Pry, Lord Howe, Doctor Johnson are treated with little respect and the collection contains a most important example of the "Tithe Pig Group" which may be by Ralph Wood.

Liverpool jugs and mugs with their characteristic cream background and transfer designs will be included and an outstanding group of Jackfield Ware from Shropshire with its brightly glazed black body and gilded decoration will complete the installation.

Whistler Prints: Starting in January, the first of a series of exhibitions from the important Harris Whittemore Collection of Whistler Prints which are now on loan in the Gallery, will be installed in the Print Rooms. As far as possible, these will be chosen chronologically.

The initial group will start with the important and now famous first etching of the Coast Survey Plate with added portrait sketches. Others included will be "Little Arthur", "Annie", "La Mere Gerard", "Fumette", "The Unsafe Tenement", "Street at Saverne", "The Kitchen", "Reading In Bed", "Seymour Standing Under a Tree", "Reading by Lamplight", "The Music Room" and "Landscape With Horse". Many of the plates are represented by several states which will add interest to the exhibition.

The popular "Scenes On The Thames" will also be included. This series of sixteen etchings of the river that so fascinated Whistler was begun in the late 1850's with little idea of publishing as a group. Eventually the coppers were purchased by Ionides and the set was published by Messers Ellis and Green of London for twelve guineas. One hundred proofs of each were made at that time. After many vicissitudes and reprints, the plates were finally cancelled in 1897 and are now in the Freer Gallery in

Washington. They are the best known of all Whistler's etched work and include such subjects as "Thames Warehouses", "Bequet", "The Forge", "The Lime Burner", "Limehouse", "Thames Police", "The Pool", "Eagle Wharf", "Rotherhithe" and "Black Lion Wharf".

The Gallery has been especially honored by the loan of this unique collection and the series of exhibitions will offer an unparalleled opportunity to study the graphic work of Whistler, our most famous print maker.

Chinese Decorative Arts: Gallery 26 has now been installed with an exhibition of Chinese Decorative Arts, including costumes, jewelry and lacquer. The several robes include chiefly examples connected with the royal palace. There is an embroidered brocade birthday coat which belonged to Prince Kuo Ch' in Wang, an 18th Century emperor's robe of tapestry weave (K'o-ssu), coats belonging to court officials, ladies, priests and the imperial theatre. One of the most interesting exhibits is the rarely shown court armour of an imperial prince of the 17th - 18th century, complete with delicate gold chasing and sable tails.

Mandarin chains and elaborate hair pins in amber, coral, kingfisher feathers, jade and semi-precious stones illustrate the jewelry of the period. There is also a group of carved lacquer vessels, bowls, trays and boxes made by palace craftsmen of the Ming and Ch'ing dynasties.

THE HALL BEQUEST: A group of French furniture and decorative arts which have just come to the Gallery from the Linda S. and Herbert F. Hall Bequest have been installed in the North Corridor. These include a superb Louis XVI inlaid table, an 18th century Boulle Mantle Clock and a pair of Empire Bronze Dore Candelabra. This important gift from two of Kansas City's most generous art patrons adds an outstanding group to the Gallery's collection in the field of decorative arts.

FRIENDS OF ART: There will be only one meeting of the special lecture series for members in January. On Thursday, January 15th at eleven o'clock, the Director will discuss later examples from the Burnap Collection of English Pottery. This will include Wood Figures, Mask and Toby Jugs, Wedgwood and the important group of Lustre Ware which is one of the finest in America.

The annual Purchase for 1941, the fine Burchfield, "The Edge of Town", has been installed in Gallery 29. Its acquisition has been favorably commented on by all the art journals and the artist himself has sent word that he considers it one of his most significant watercolours to date.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT: The Saturday morning classes will not be resumed until January 10th. The Saturday afternoon programs were resumed January 3rd and the programs for these two days will be found in the calendar.

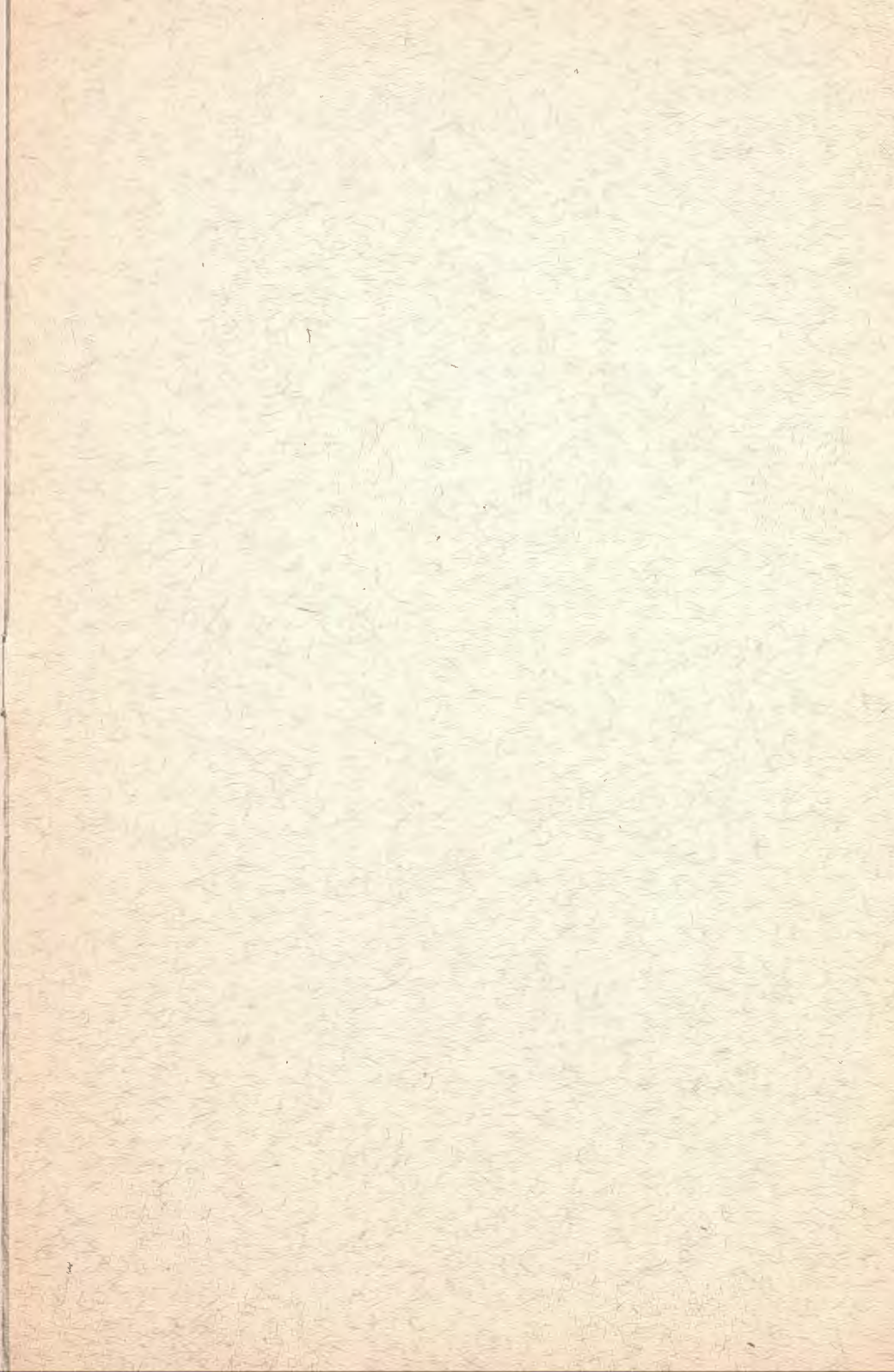
The marionette play to be given on January 24th was written by Miss Lindsay Hughes of the Oriental Department. It is the story of "Shun", one of the most famous early emperors of China, adapted from scenes on a Chinese stone sarcophagus in the Gallery collection. The sets and costumes for the play which will be enacted by the Marionette Players under the direction of Miss Barton of the Educational Staff, are authentic reproductions of 6th century China.

On January 31st the afternoon program will include a film on Rembrandt, showing his life and art against the background of the world in which he lived. This is an exceptionally fine film made in collaboration with the Dutch government.

The Little Museum for Young Moderns will install an exhibition of the drawings of Ernest Thompson Seton for the month of January. These drawings will be augmented by several of the books in which Mr. Seton's illustrations can be found.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Sat., Jan.	3	-	3:00	-	Picture Show - Serial
Sun., "	4	-	7:30	-	Concert - WPA Orchestra
Mon., "	5	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Orient Art.
Tues., "	6	-	2:00	-	Asiatic Study Group
Tues., "	6	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art.
Wed., "	7	-	8:00	-	Lecture - Early Chinese Buddhist Sculpture and the Transition Style - Mr. Sickman.
Thurs., "	8	-	10:00	-	Library - Socratic Delphians
Thurs., "	8	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst. Ren. Art
Sat., "	10	-	3:00	-	Picture Show - "Quebec" and "Inca-Cuzu"
Sun., "	11	-	7:30	-	Concert - Mu Phi
Mon., "	12	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Orient. Art
Tues., "	13	-	10:00	-	Library - Book Club
Tues., "	13	-	1:00	-	Library - Art Study Club
Tues., "	13	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art.
Wed., "	14	-	10:00	-	Library - Minerva Delphians
Wed., "	14	-	8:00	-	Lecture - The Classic Style of Buddhist Sculpture and Painting - The T'ang Dynasty - Mr. Sickman
Thurs., "	15	-	11:00	-	Library - Friends of Art
Thurs., "	15	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art.
Sat., "	17	-	3:00	-	Motion Picture - "England" and Serial
Sun., "	18	-	7:30	-	Concert - Sigma Alpha Iota
Mon., "	19	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst. Orient. Art
Tues., "	20	-	2:00	-	Asiatic Study Group
Tues., "	20	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art
Wed., "	21	-	8:00	-	Lecture - Later Buddhist Art and the Baroque Manner - Mr. Sickman.
Thurs., "	22	-	10:00	-	Library - Socratic Delphians
Thurs., "	22	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art
Sat., "	24	-	3:00	-	Marionette Play - "Shun"
Sun., "	25	-	7:30	-	Concert - Hunt-Forsythe.
Mon., "	26	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Orient. Art
Tues., "	27	-	10:00	-	Library - Book Club
Tues., "	27	-	4:00	-	Library - Art Inst., Ren. Art
Wed., "	28	-	10:00	-	Library - Minerva Delphians
Wed., "	28	-	8:00	-	Lecture - The Luxury of T'ang China - Mr. Sickman
Sat., "	31	-	3:00	-	Motion Picture - "Rembrandt" and "Zuyder Zee"



William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art

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